FIG. 1

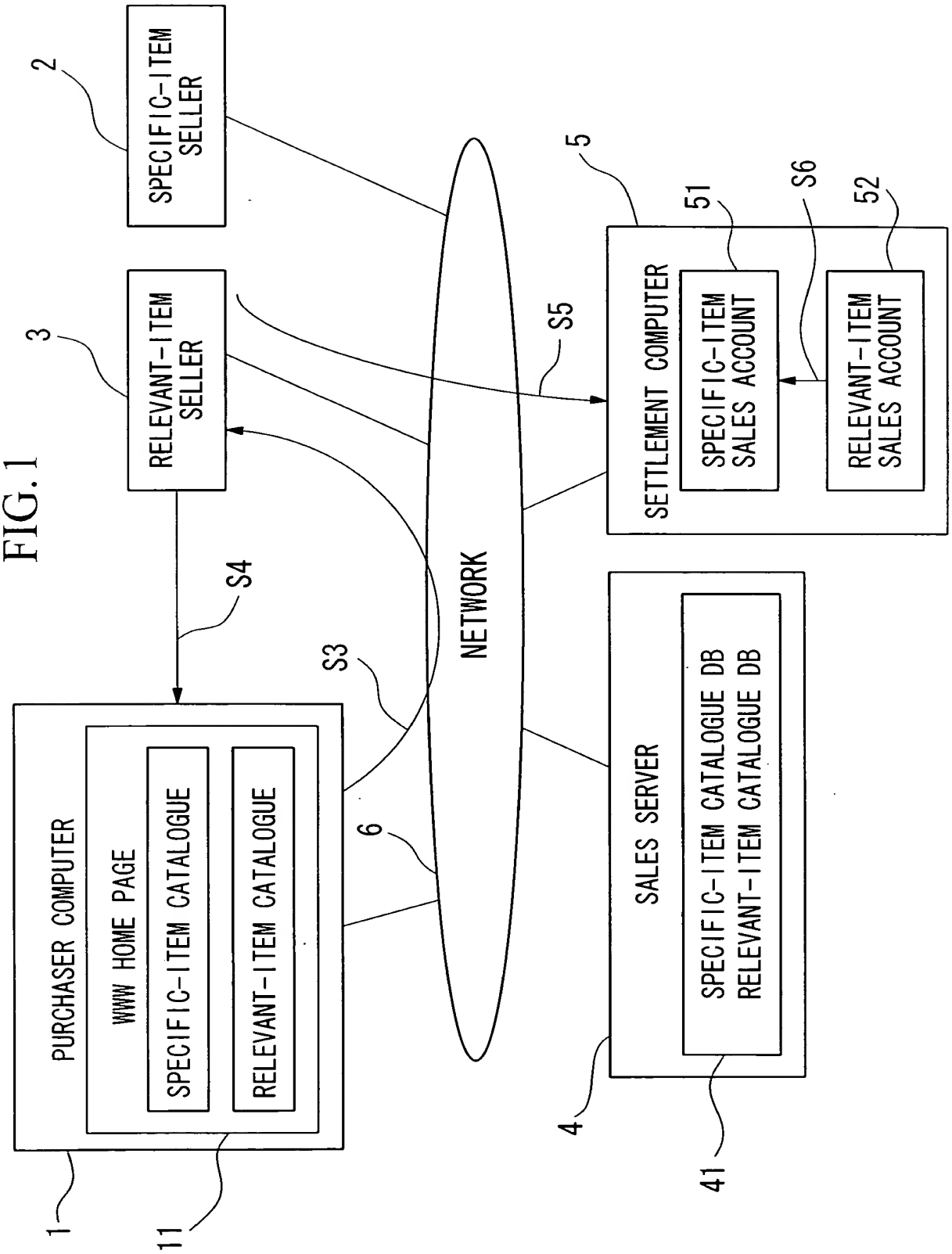

SPECIFIC-ITEM SELLER
2
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER
3
NETWORK
SETTLEMENT COMPUTER
5
SPECIFIC-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
51
RELEVANT-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
52
S5
S6
S4
S3
PURCHASER COMPUTER
WWW HOME PAGE
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE
1
11
6
SALES SERVER
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
4
41

FIG. 2

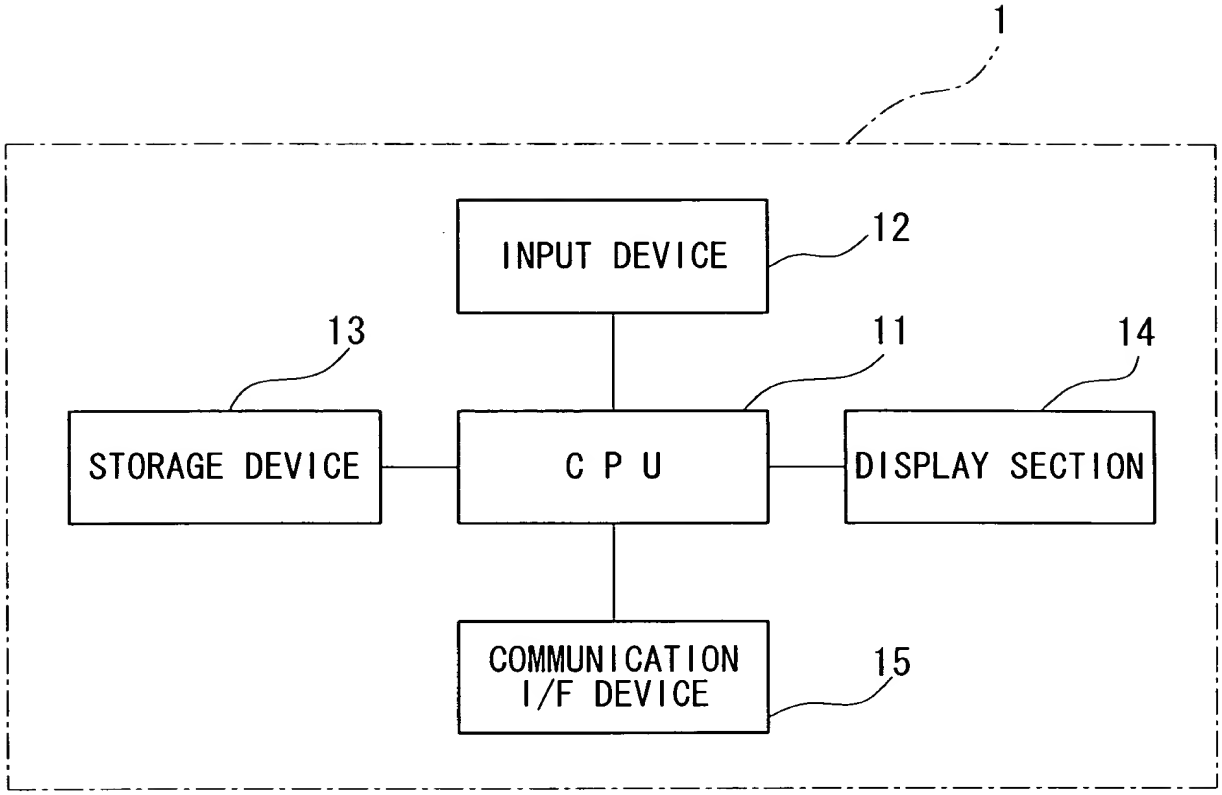

1
INPUT DEVICE
12
13
11
14
STORAGE DEVICE
C P U
DISPLAY SECTION
COMMUNICATION I/F DEVICE
15

FIG. 3

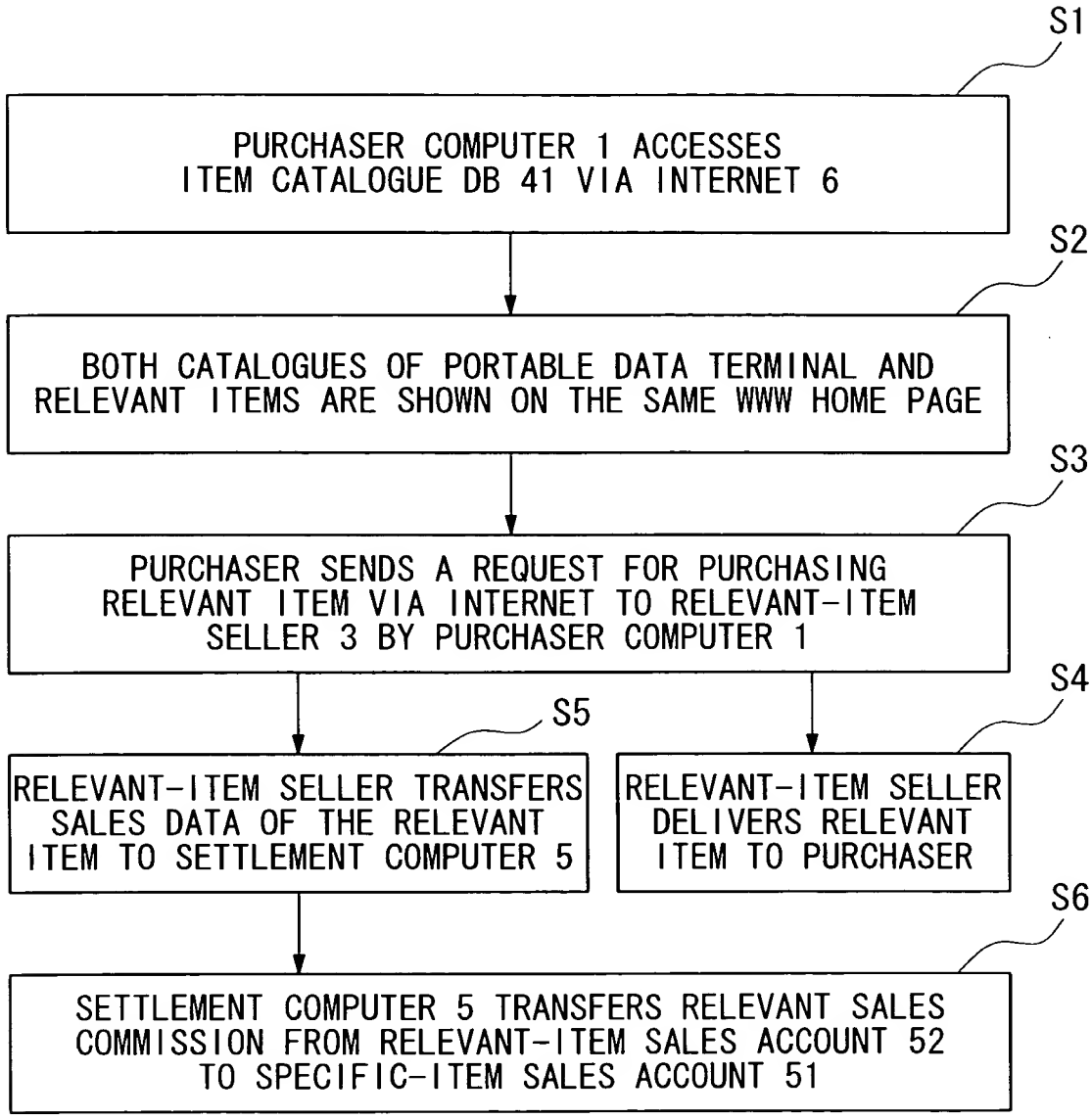

S1
PURCHASER COMPUTER 1 ACCESSES ITEM CATALOGUE DB 41 VIA INTERNET 6
S2
BOTH CATALOGUES OF PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL AND RELEVANT ITEMS ARE SHOWN ON THE SAME WWW HOME PAGE
S3
PURCHASER SENDS A REQUEST FOR PURCHASING RELEVANT ITEM VIA INTERNET TO RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER 3 BY PURCHASER COMPUTER 1
S4
S5
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER TRANSFERS SALES DATA OF THE RELEVANT ITEM TO SETTLEMENT COMPUTER 5
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER DELIVERS RELEVANT ITEM TO PURCHASER
S6
SETTLEMENT COMPUTER 5 TRANSFERS RELEVANT SALES COMMISSION FROM RELEVANT-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT 52 TO SPECIFIC-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT 51

FIG. 4

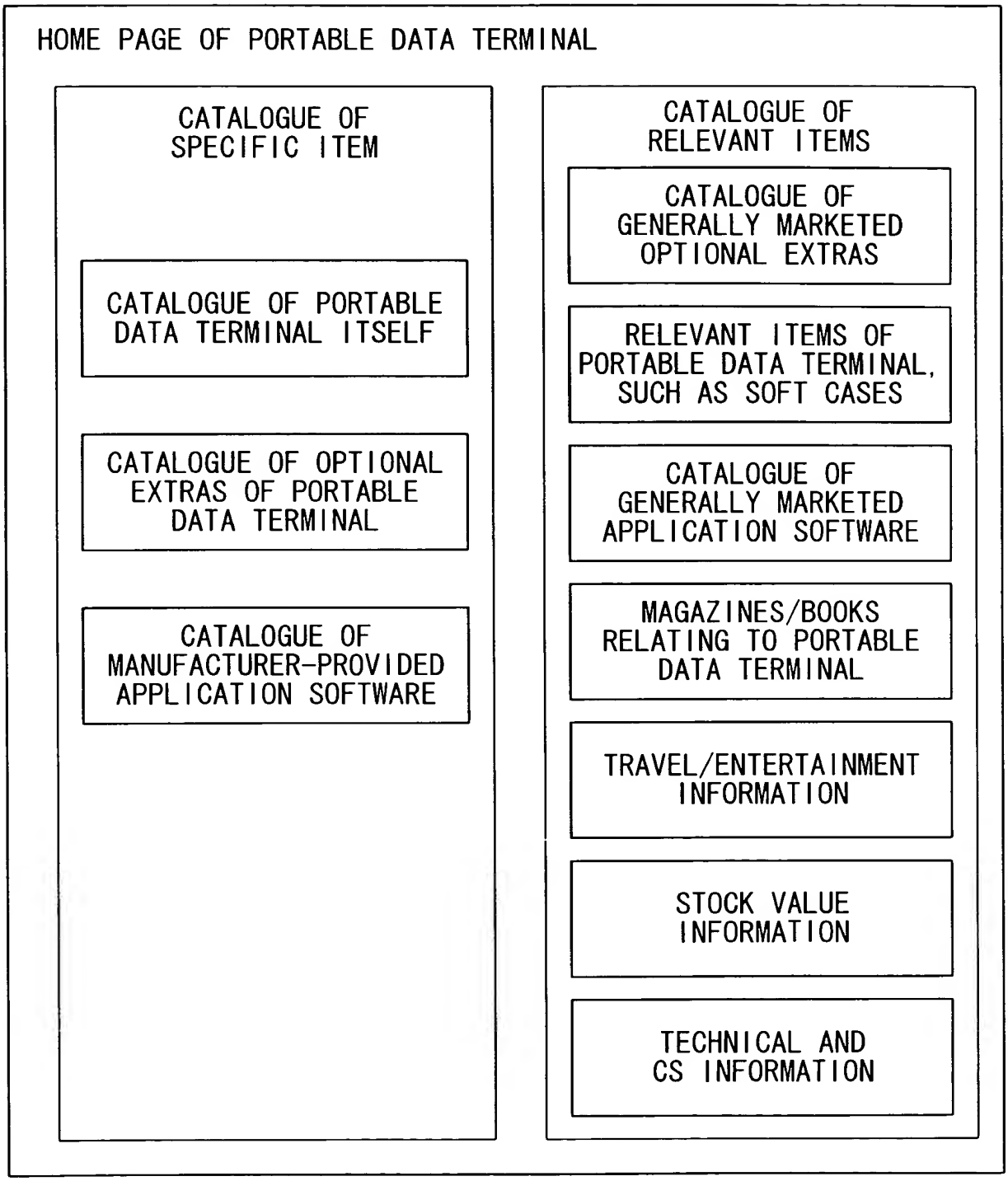

HOME PAGE OF PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL
CATALOGUE OF SPECIFIC ITEM
CATALOGUE OF PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL ITSELF
CATALOGUE OF OPTIONAL EXTRAS OF PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL
CATALOGUE OF MANUFACTURER-PROVIDED APPLICATION SOFTWARE
CATALOGUE OF RELEVANT ITEMS
CATALOGUE OF GENERALLY MARKETED OPTIONAL EXTRAS
RELEVANT ITEMS OF PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL, SUCH AS SOFT CASES
CATALOGUE OF GENERALLY MARKETED APPLICATION SOFTWARE
MAGAZINES/BOOKS RELATING TO PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL
TRAVEL/ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION
STOCK VALUE INFORMATION
TECHNICAL AND CS INFORMATION

FIG. 5

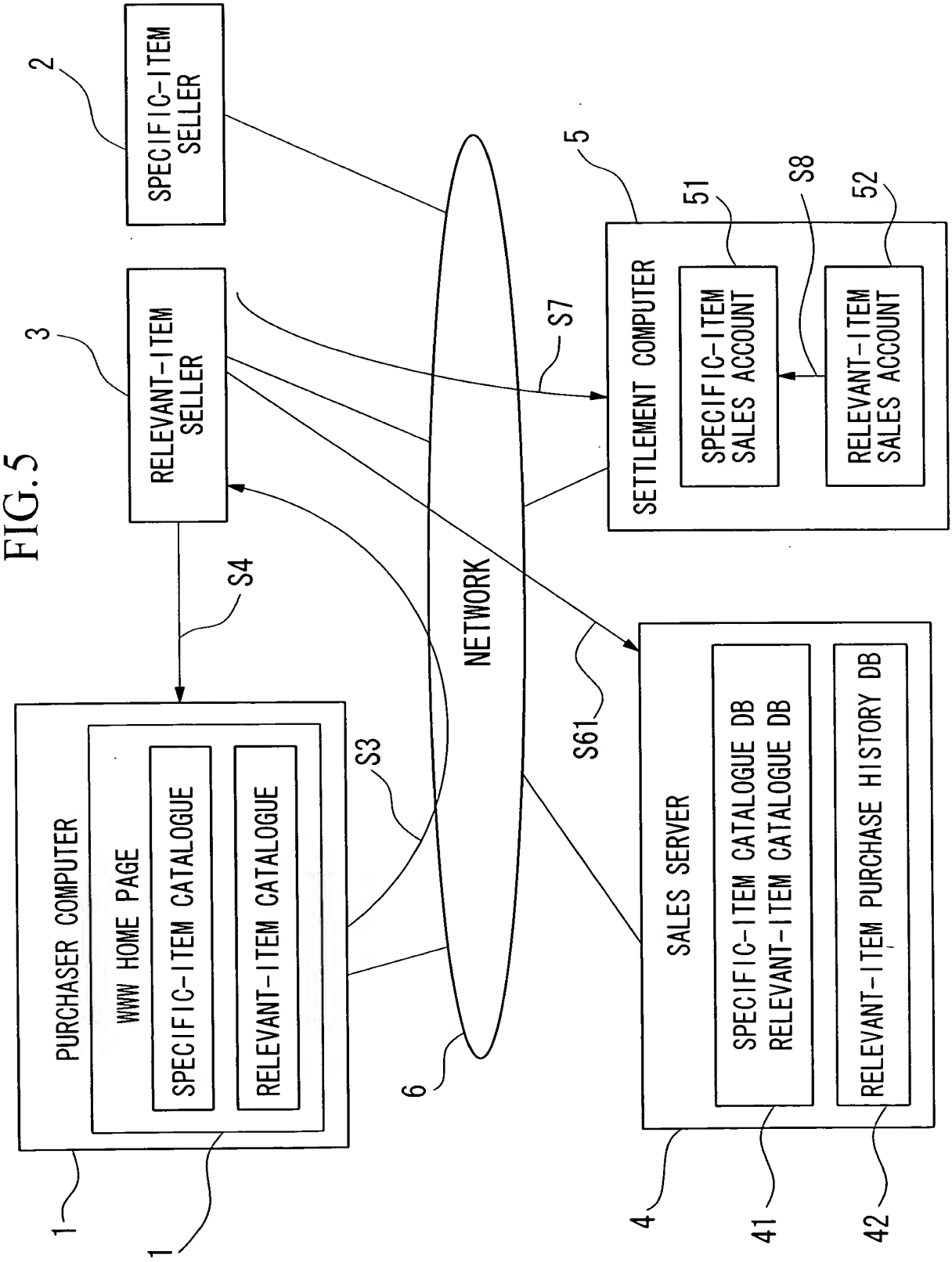

SPECIFIC-ITEM SELLER
2
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER
3
NETWORK
6
SETTLEMENT COMPUTER
5
SPECIFIC-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
51
RELEVANT-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
52
S7
S8
S4
S3
S61
PURCHASER COMPUTER
WWW HOME PAGE
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE
1
11
SALES SERVER
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
RELEVANT-ITEM PURCHASE HISTORY DB
4
41
42

FIG. 6

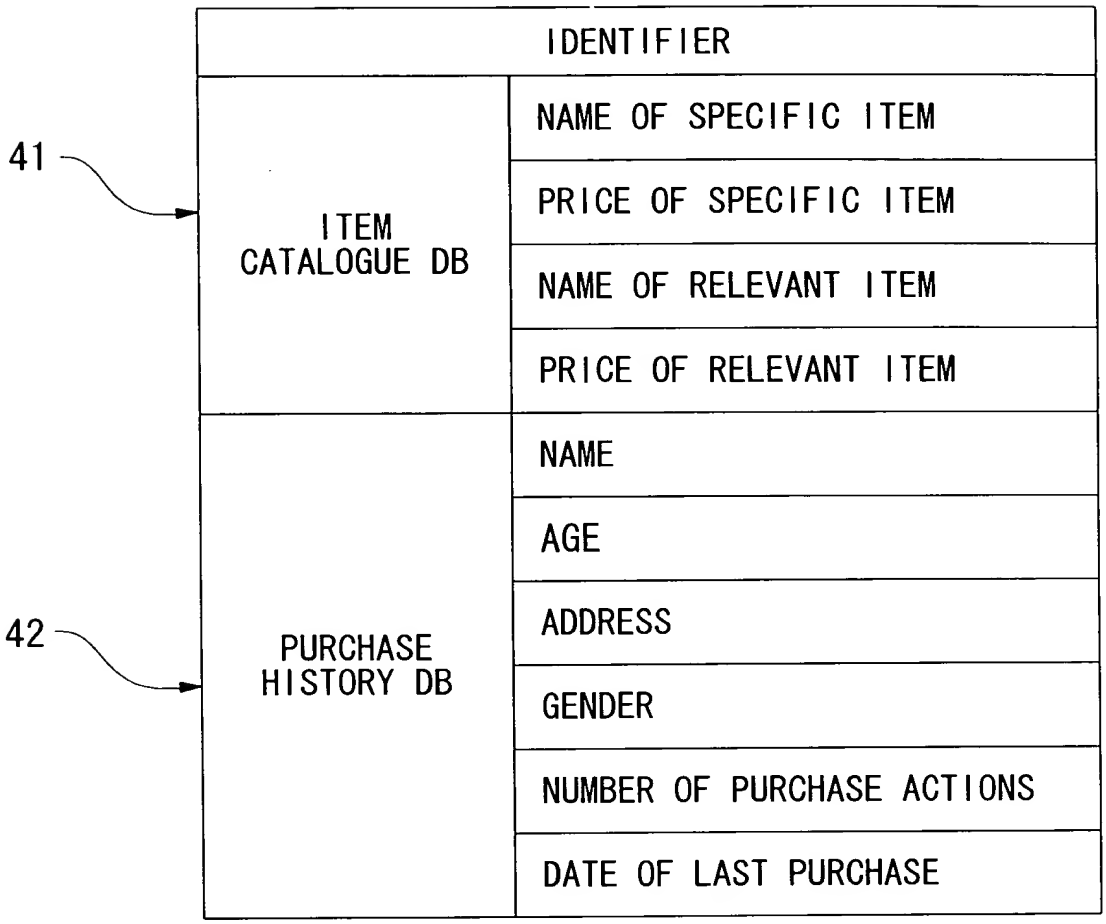

41
42
IDENTIFIER
ITEM CATALOGUE DB
NAME OF SPECIFIC ITEM
PRICE OF SPECIFIC ITEM
NAME OF RELEVANT ITEM
PRICE OF RELEVANT ITEM
PURCHASE HISTORY DB
NAME
AGE
ADDRESS
GENDER
NUMBER OF PURCHASE ACTIONS
DATE OF LAST PURCHASE

FIG. 7

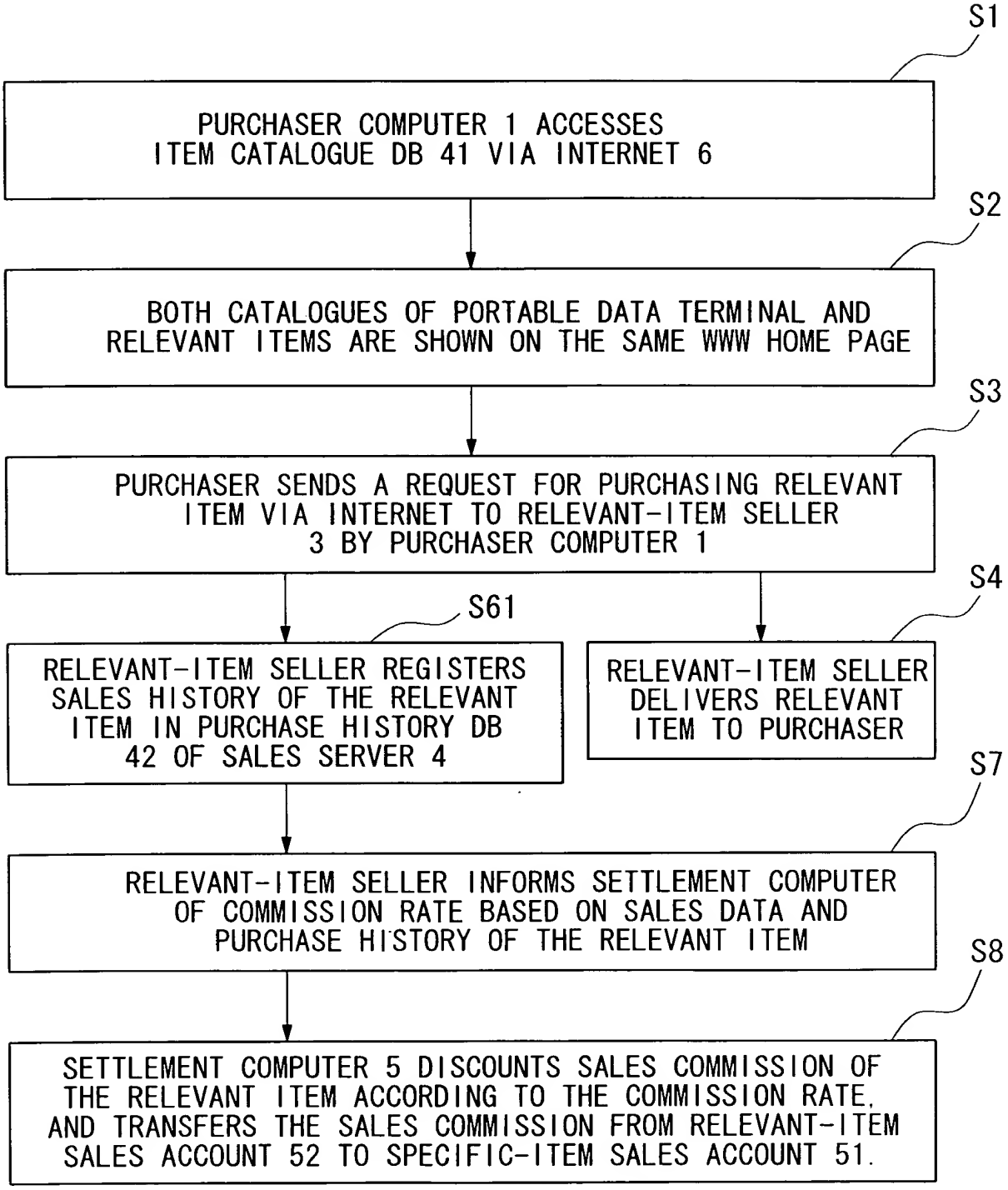

S1
PURCHASER COMPUTER 1 ACCESSES ITEM CATALOGUE DB 41 VIA INTERNET 6
S2
BOTH CATALOGUES OF PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL AND RELEVANT ITEMS ARE SHOWN ON THE SAME WWW HOME PAGE
S3
PURCHASER SENDS A REQUEST FOR PURCHASING RELEVANT ITEM VIA INTERNET TO RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER 3 BY PURCHASER COMPUTER 1
S61
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER REGISTERS SALES HISTORY OF THE RELEVANT ITEM IN PURCHASE HISTORY DB 42 OF SALES SERVER 4
S4
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER DELIVERS RELEVANT ITEM TO PURCHASER
S7
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER INFORMS SETTLEMENT COMPUTER OF COMMISSION RATE BASED ON SALES DATA AND PURCHASE HISTORY OF THE RELEVANT ITEM
S8
SETTLEMENT COMPUTER 5 DISCOUNTS SALES COMMISSION OF THE RELEVANT ITEM ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION RATE, AND TRANSFERS THE SALES COMMISSION FROM RELEVANT-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT 52 TO SPECIFIC-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT 51.

FIG. 8

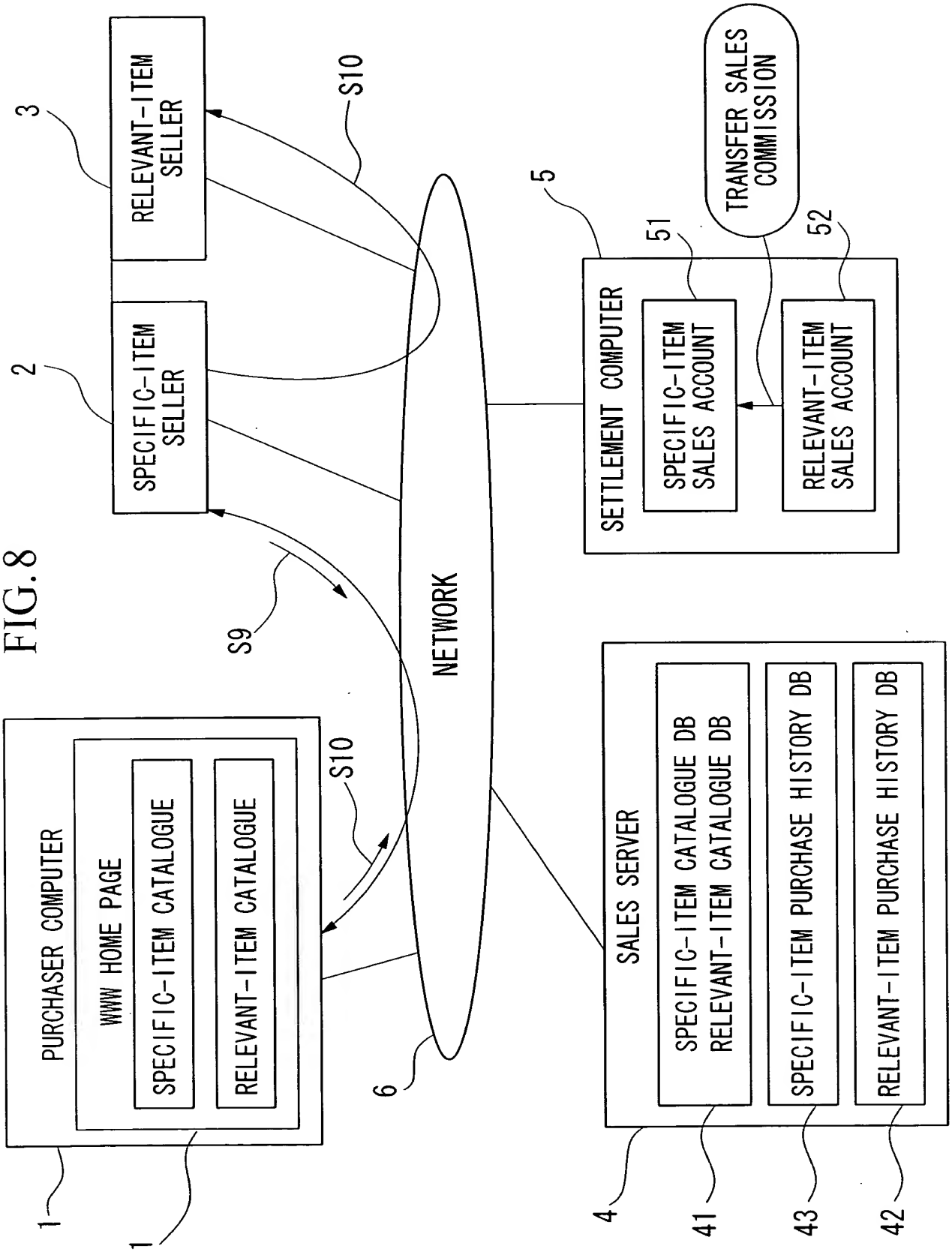

RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER
SPECIFIC-ITEM SELLER
TRANSFER SALES COMMISSION
SETTLEMENT COMPUTER
SPECIFIC-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
RELEVANT-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
NETWORK
PURCHASER COMPUTER
WWW HOME PAGE
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE
SALES SERVER
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
SPECIFIC-ITEM PURCHASE HISTORY DB
RELEVANT-ITEM PURCHASE HISTORY DB
S9
S10
S10
1
2
3
4
5
6
11
41
42
43
51
52

FIG. 9

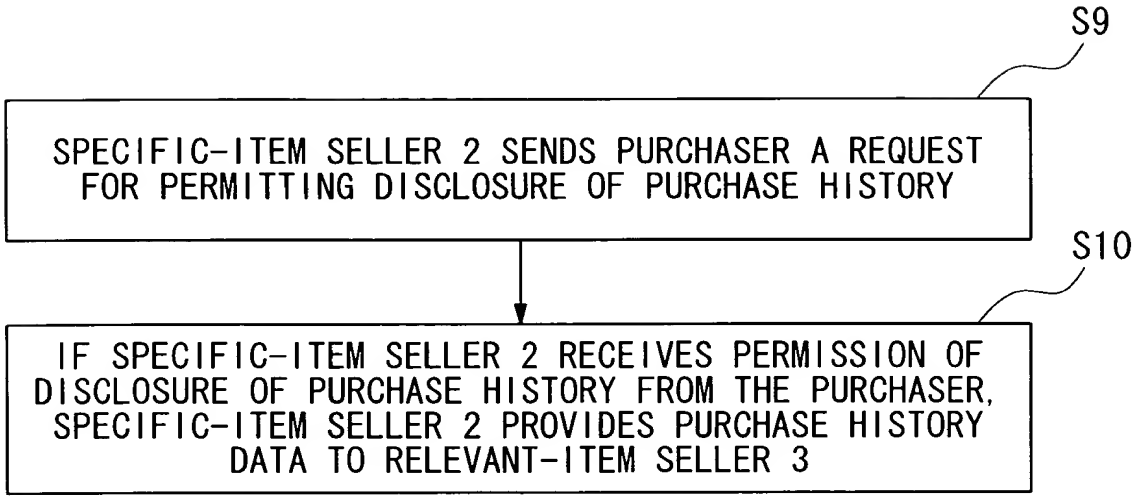

S9
SPECIFIC-ITEM SELLER 2 SENDS PURCHASER A REQUEST FOR PERMITTING DISCLOSURE OF PURCHASE HISTORY
S10
IF SPECIFIC-ITEM SELLER 2 RECEIVES PERMISSION OF DISCLOSURE OF PURCHASE HISTORY FROM THE PURCHASER, SPECIFIC-ITEM SELLER 2 PROVIDES PURCHASE HISTORY DATA TO RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER 3

FIG. 10

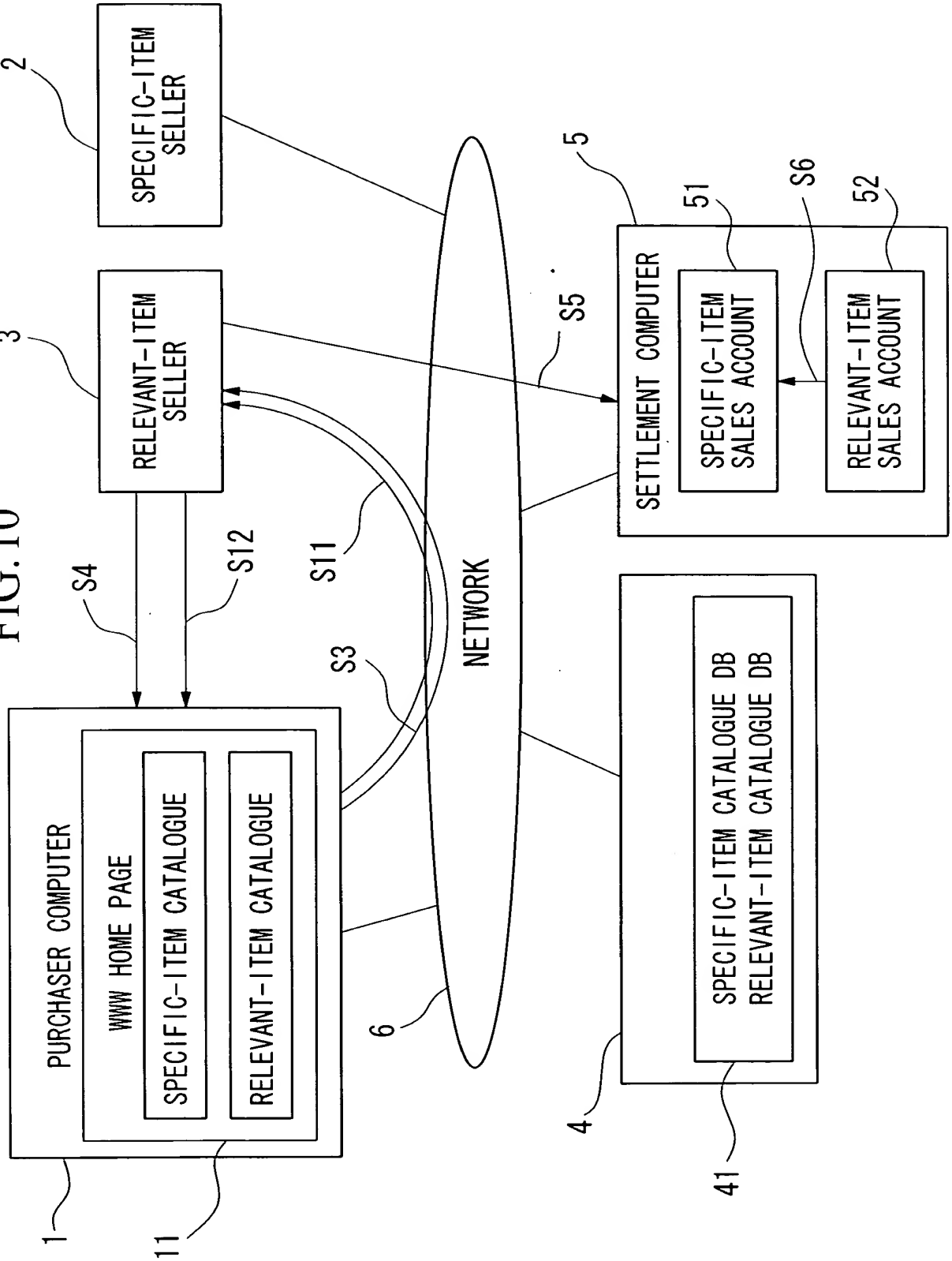
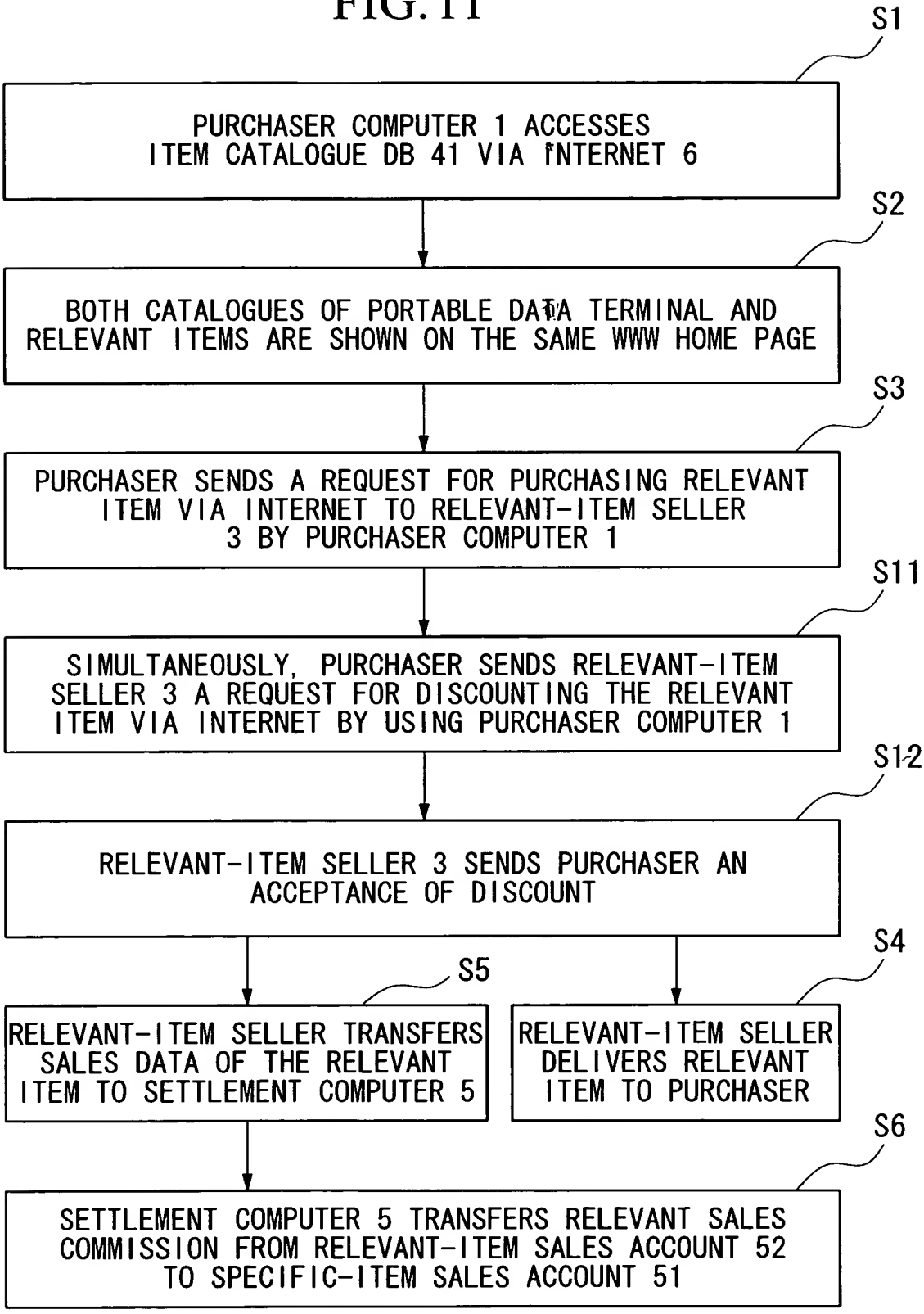

SPECIFIC-ITEM SELLER
2
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER
3
PURCHASER COMPUTER
WWW HOME PAGE
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE
1
11
NETWORK
6
SETTLEMENT COMPUTER
5
SPECIFIC-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
51
RELEVANT-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT
52
SPECIFIC-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
RELEVANT-ITEM CATALOGUE DB
4
41
S3
S4
S5
S6
S11
S12

FIG. 11


S1
PURCHASER COMPUTER 1 ACCESSES ITEM CATALOGUE DB 41 VIA INTERNET 6
S2
BOTH CATALOGUES OF PORTABLE DATA TERMINAL AND RELEVANT ITEMS ARE SHOWN ON THE SAME WWW HOME PAGE
S3
PURCHASER SENDS A REQUEST FOR PURCHASING RELEVANT ITEM VIA INTERNET TO RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER 3 BY PURCHASER COMPUTER 1
S11
SIMULTANEOUSLY, PURCHASER SENDS RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER 3 A REQUEST FOR DISCOUNTING THE RELEVANT ITEM VIA INTERNET BY USING PURCHASER COMPUTER 1
S12
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER 3 SENDS PURCHASER AN ACCEPTANCE OF DISCOUNT
S5
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER TRANSFERS SALES DATA OF THE RELEVANT ITEM TO SETTLEMENT COMPUTER 5
S4
RELEVANT-ITEM SELLER DELIVERS RELEVANT ITEM TO PURCHASER
S6
SETTLEMENT COMPUTER 5 TRANSFERS RELEVANT SALES COMMISSION FROM RELEVANT-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT 52 TO SPECIFIC-ITEM SALES ACCOUNT 51